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SUBJ/PUBLIC AFFAIRS-NAVAL SERVICE MEDICAL NEWS (NSMN) (94-39)//
POC/P.C. BISHOP/CAPT/MED-00P (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)/-/TEL:(202)653-
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RMKS/1. THIS SERVICE IS FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION OF
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MEMBERS, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES, FAMILY MEMBERS AND RETIRED
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WITH THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS (CMC). THE COMMANDANT
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HEADLINE: Hospitalman Suffers Severe Burns in Explosion
FORT A.P. HILL, VA (NSMN) -- A hospitalman serving with the
Marines of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit carried out the
finest traditions of the Navy, Navy medicine and the hospital
corps when an explosion rocked his unit during a routine
demolition training exercise at the U.S. Army Fort A.P. Hill in
southern Virginia 12 October.

HN Michael J. Thomson, assigned to the Division Surgeon
Office of MSSG-24, 24th MEU, received second and third degree
burns over 40 percent of his body during the incident. And until
local paramedics arrived, Thomson ignored his own injuries to
attend to others who were wounded. Hospital corpsmen assigned to
Marine units are the first line of medical care for their
division. In addition to the Marine NEC of 8404, Thomson also
holds the operating room (OR) technician NEC.

Two Marines were killed in the explosion, and seven Marines
and one Sailor, Thomson, were injured. The injured Marines were
evacuated to a local hospital for treatment. Thomson was flown

by helicopter to the burn unit of the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, VA.

Thomson was in critical but stable condition with second and third degree burns over 40 percent of his body, including his hands and face. He is expected to be in the intensive care unit for two to five days; he will receive skin grafts as part of his recovery process. His prognosis is good.

-USN-

HEADLINE: Naval Medical Support for Operation Uphold Democracy
COMSECONDFLT (NSMN) -- From the sea, naval medical forces stood ready to provide care to Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps personnel in Operation Uphold Democracy at the beginning of this month.

Serving on a variety of ships, over 400 hospital corpsmen, 50 medical officers, 50 nurse corps officers and 20 medical service corps officers made more than 400 inpatient beds and nine operating rooms ready for casualties. Medical personnel supporting the operation were embarked on a number of vessels, including USS Wasp (LHD 1), USS Nashville (LPD 13), USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41), USS Ashland (LSD 48), USS America (CV 66), USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), USS Savannah (AOR 4), USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) and the hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20). Comfort, Eisenhower and Whidbey Island have since returned to the United States, and Savannah has detached from the operation.

Medical Department personnel were assigned as ship's company, SPMAGTF Carib, and medical augmentees from many hospitals and clinics in the continental United States.
Story by CAPT Bruce Bohnker, MC, CTF ONE EIGHT FIVE Surgeon

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HEADLINE: Inventor of Medical Translator Receives JCS Award
BUMED Washington (NSMN) -- CDR Lee M. Morin, MC, director of Warfare Specialty Programs of the Naval Aerospace and Operational Medical Institute in Pensacola, FL, has been selected to receive the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Award for Excellence in Military Medicine.

The prestigious award will be presented to Morin, and the Army and Air Force recipients, in a Washington, DC, ceremony 17 October. The award, established last year through the efforts of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher of New York City, is to recognize emerging leaders in the military medicine community. Each service selects its most promising medical officer, representing the very best in scholarship, research, practice, leadership and potential. Through the generosity of the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Award Foundation, the officers recognized by the chairman of the JCS and their services earn research grants of \$50,000 each for their respective services. Morin has designated NAMI's telemedicine project to receive his research grant.

Morin, a specialist in occupational medicine, flight surgery and diving medicine, "has demonstrated a genius for innovative ideas, providing practical solutions to challenges faced in military medicine," Navy Surgeon General VADM D.F. Hagen, MC, said in a letter last month to Mr. Fisher. The admiral listed

Morin's accomplishments as an inventor and researcher, which include the Gas Mask Gunsight that allows troops wearing gas masks to properly aim their weapons, a mask humidification system for use with hyperbaric chamber patients and the Multimedia Medical Translator, which has been used with success in Zagreb.

In a 1 September telemedicine demonstration for Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton, the medical translator was a featured item. "The provider, nurse or even patient selects a phrase from the screen. The machine then speaks the phrase in the particular language chosen," said CDR Michael Greenauer, MSC, of the Naval Medical Information Management Center, who demonstrated the machine. "All the questions have been designed to be yes/no, point movement (point to where it hurts) or instructional uses for the patient, like roll over." The voice comes out very distinct and clear.

The system has the capability of 30 languages. "The Public Health Service has also asked the designers to add the Navaho language," said Greenauer, which would assist caregivers on Navaho reservations.

As illustrated by the medical translator, Morin's inventions not only improve the readiness and health care of military beneficiaries but are also applicable in civilian health care and humanitarian and disaster relief operations.

"Morin's lasting contributions to military medicine, usually conceived and tested on his own time," said Hagen, "are in the great tradition of Navy Medicine represented by Vice Admiral Joel T. Boone, in whose likeness the Navy medal for this award is struck."

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HEADLINE: Scientists Disclose Promising Malaria Vaccine Results

VICAL INC., Cold Spring Harbor, NY -- Scientists from the Naval Medical Research Institute (NMRI) and Vical Incorporated on 10 October disclosed the results of research in animals that may lead to a new vaccine to combat malaria, the world's leading cause of death by infection.

In a paper presented at the Cold Spring Harbor Symposium on Molecular Approaches to the Control of Infectious Diseases, the authors reported that mice injected with the naked DNA vaccine encoding a protein from the malaria parasite induced high levels of specific antibodies and cytotoxic T lymphocytes. This immune response protected over 80 percent of the mice from subsequent challenge with a highly infectious dose of parasites.

The vaccine belongs to a new class of such products -- naked DNA vaccines -- that consist of highly purified strands of generic material (DNA) that instruct cells to make antigenic proteins. The immunity generated by this approach can eliminate cells infected with the pathogen, in addition to destroying the pathogen itself. Naked DNA vaccines previously have been shown effective in animal models of influenza, herpes and rabies virus infections. This report is the first demonstration of the effective use of naked DNA immunization in a parasitic disease.

Malaria is estimated to cause 1 to 2 million deaths each year around the world. As many as 200 million people are newly

infected each year. The infection is caused by various species of the Plasmodium protozoan, a single-celled organism whose complex parasitic life cycle and ability to "hide" from the immune system of infected hosts have long frustrated attempts at vaccine development.

"In our hands, immunization with naked DNA induces protective cellular immune responses superior to those induced by all other synthetic and recombinant anti-malaria vaccine we have tested," said CAPT Stephen L. Hoffman, MC, director of NMRI's Malaria Program. "This new technology may allow us to construct the multivalent, highly immunogenic vaccines that we believe will be required for optimally protecting against malaria. These data constitute an important first step, although we have much work ahead of us before testing this approach in man."

Under a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), NMRI investigators are collaborating with scientists from Vical Inc., a San Diego-based biopharmaceutical firm that is pioneering the use of naked DNA vaccines. NMRI and Vical scientists designed and constructed the DNA plasmids that were subsequently tested by Hoffman and his colleagues at NMRI in a mouse model of malaria. Vical has been collaborating for over three years with Merck & Co., Inc. to develop naked DNA vaccines for up to seven other vaccine targets. In addition, Vical recently entered into a Research and Development (R&D) and licensing agreement with Pasteur-Merieux Connaught, a leading global manufacturer and marketer of vaccine products, to further commercialize a naked DNA based vaccine for malaria, among several other vaccine targets.

NMRI, located in Bethesda, MD, is the major biomedical research facility of the Naval Medical Research and Development Command. In addition to programs on infectious diseases of military importance, NMRI has major programs in diving medicine, environmental physiology, immunobiology, combat casualty care, bone marrow registry and transplantation, and toxicology.

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HEADLINE: MTFs Should Make Room for Reserve Physicals

BUMED Washington (NSMN) -- Naval Reservists must obtain physicals on the same schedule as active duty personnel. For most people, that's every five years. The Manual of the Medical Department charges the Navy Medical Department with responsibility for the physical readiness of Reservists on an equal level as that for active duty. This means that Reservists, whether or not they are on active duty, are eligible to receive their physicals in a military medical treatment facility and should be given the same priority as active duty personnel requiring physicals.

Some facilities hold "Reserve weekends," where the medical Reserve drilling unit performs physicals for area Reservists. On Saturday, 13 August, the Sewell's Point Branch Medical Clinic in Virginia held its second annual "Physical-a-Thon," where more than 50 physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, hospital corpsmen and administrative assistants, led by Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's commander, RADM William J. McDaniel,

MC, completed 160 physicals in four hours. Other facilities use a combination of Reserve and active staff to open their regular clinic and exam sites for longer hours to do physicals for both components.

Above are a few examples of how facilities have tackled the large numbers of physicals required by active duty and Reserve Navy and Marine Corps personnel. Individuals can assist MTFs by knowing when their physicals are due -- every five years until age 50, then every two years; annual flight physicals -- and schedule them in advance. HMCS(SS) Dan Bullock of Sewell's Point BMC recommends you start your separation physical within six months of separating and retirement physicals can be started 18 months prior to retiring, although a record review is required within 45 days of the retirement date for retiring personnel.

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HEADLINE: Realignment of Branch Medical Clinics Philadelphia
NMCL Philadelphia (NSMN) -- On 30 September 1994, a historical event took place at the Naval Medical Clinic Philadelphia. A ceremony was conducted marking the official realignment of the Branch Medical Clinics at Earle, Lakehurst, Mechanicsburg and Willow Grove to the National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, MD, for command and control. This ceremony concludes over two years of planning and work that was initiated as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure legislations of 1988 and 1991. Many people from this command, NNNMC Bethesda, the Healthcare Support Office Norfolk, VA, and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington worked together to develop plans for the future organization and operations of Navy medicine in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley.

NNMC's commander, RADM Richard I. Ridenour, MC, was the guest speaker for the realignment ceremony.

CAPT Faye T. Scott, NC, commanding officer of Naval Medical Clinic Philadelphia, presented Ridenour with a 10-foot oak tree as a "symbolic reminder of the strength of Navy medicine in the Delaware Valley. The leaves of the oak tree are a symbol of the healing arts and the branches represent the four clinics transferred to your command." Scott requested "that you plant the oak tree on your compound in Bethesda as a symbol of the integration of our two commands; although this command will close in one year, it will live on through you. As the tree grows and flourishes in Bethesda, we hope that it will serve as a reminder of the distinguished legacy Navy medicine leaves in both Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley."

Naval Medical Clinic Philadelphia is scheduled to close 30 September 1995.

Story by CDR Joan M. Pate, NC

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HEADLINE: Third National Medical Care User Survey

OASD(HA) Washington (NSMN) -- The Defense Health Study Center in Monterey, CA, began mailing surveys on 3 October 1994 to some 390,000 family members of active duty personnel, retirees and family members of retirees. The survey asks respondents

about their use of medical treatment facilities (MTFs), CHAMPUS and civilian health care resources. Respondents should respond as soon as possible, either by phone or mail. The deadline for receipt of all responses is 16 November 1994. DOD will use the information to help develop the medical budget for the Army, Air Force and the Navy, which provides health care for both the Navy and the Marine Corps.

DOD allocates its resources for the Military Health Services System (MHSS) using a capitation-based methodology. The commander of each medical treatment facility (MTF) assumes responsibility for providing health services to a defined population, for a fixed amount per beneficiary. However, a significant number of DOD-eligible beneficiaries either do not use the MHSS or partially use the system. To determine a realistic capitated population, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (OASD(HA)) is using a semi-annual survey instrument to obtain a statistical sample to identify those non-active duty beneficiaries who use the MHSS.

The survey instrument will consist of nine questions using two response methods: either a computer-assisted telephone inquiry (CATI) via a toll-free 800 telephone number or traditional paper and pencil mailed response. The average response time is five minutes.

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3. Professional Notes: Information on upcoming symposiums, conferences or courses of interest to Navy Medical Department personnel and wrap-ups on ones attended. Anyone with information to share in this section should contact the editor (see the last paragraph of this message on ways to do so).

Scheduled Meetings:

-- 17-28 October 1994, Operational Entomology Training, Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center, Jacksonville, FL. For information, contact the DVECC Training Department at (904) 772-2424, DSN 942-2424, FAX (904) 779-0107.

-- 27-28 October 1994, The Thirteenth Annual Zuska Substance Abuse Symposium, NAVHOSP Camp Pendleton, CA, (619) 7225-1561.

-- 28-31 October 1994, NAMI Advanced Trauma Life Support Course, Pensacola, FL (see story below).

-- 7-18 November 1994, CDC Epidemiology in Action course, Atlanta, GA, call (404) 727-3485 for more information.

-- 13-18 November 1994, Association of Military Surgeons of the United States' Annual Meeting, "Unity Through Diversity," Orlando, FL, (301) 897-8800.

-- 6-9 December 1994, NAMI Naval Aeromedical Problems Course, Pensacola, FL (see story below).

-- 20-22 March 1995, The Fourth Annual Advanced Training Seminar in Hyperbaric Medicine, sponsored by Richland Memorial Hospital and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. For registration information, write to Hyperbaric Medicine, Five Richland Medical Park, Columbia, SC 29203; (803) 434-7101.

-- 20-24 March 1995, Shea-Arentzen Nursing Symposium 1995, "Navigating New Frontiers of Nursing Practice: The Challenges of Health Care Reform," La Jolla, CA. Contact CDR Chris Laurent,

NC, or CDR Bill Aiken, NC, at DSN 522-6412 or (619) 532-6412 for more information.

-- 20-22 April 1995, Postgraduate Course in General Surgery, University of California, San Francisco. For registration information call (415) 476-5808; for program information call (415) 476-4251.

-- 5-8 June 1995, HHS International Congress on Hazardous Waste: Impact on Human and Ecological Health, Atlanta. Deadline for abstracts is 1 February 1995. For information, contact Dr. John S. Andrews, Jr., Associate Administrator for Science, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 1600 Clifton Rd., NE (E-28), Atlanta, GA 30333; (404) 639-0708, e-mail JSAI@ATSOAA1.EM.CDC.GOV.

-- 9-11 November 1995, The Integrated Function of the Lumbar Spine and Sacroiliac Joints, San Diego. Deadline for abstracts is 13 January 1995. Direct inquiries and submissions to European Conference Organizers, P.O. Box 4334, 3006 AH Rotterdam, The Netherlands; 31-10-4133287.

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HEADLINE: NAMI ATLS Course is this Month

NAMI Pensacola, FL (NSMN) -- The Naval Aerospace and Operational Medical Institute will be hosting an Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) course 28-31 October at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Building 1954, as they have done for the past several years. The course is offered by the Joint Medical Readiness Training Center. Laboratory exercises integral to the course will be conducted at the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory on 29 October.

ATLS prepares military physicians to resuscitate and stabilize battle casualties and other victims of serious trauma. For most participants, this preparation can be achieved in no other way.

For more information, contact CDR G.R. Cox, DSN 922-2458 or (904) 452-2458.

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HEADLINE: Women in Combat is the theme of NAMI Course

NAMI Pensacola, FL (NSMN) -- The annual Naval Aeromedical Problems Course, 6-9 December 1994, will be sponsored by the Naval Aerospace and Operational Medical Institute in Pensacola. The theme "Women in Combat" will be emphasized and current aeromedical issues and professional updates will be addressed.

For information on registration or content, contact the Academics Department, NAMI, at DSN 922-2741/8365, (904) 457-274/8365. E-mail inquiries should be addressed to code326@amd2.med.navy.mil.

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HEADLINE: Submissions Sought for Nursing Award

BUMED Washington (NSMN) -- The next cycle for selection of recipients for the "RADM Mary F. Hall Award for Nursing Publication" has begun. These awards are given annually to active duty and reserve Nurse Corps officers to encourage

professional publication and recognize those who have positively contributed to the image of nursing. Awards are given in three categories: 1) clinical nursing, 2) nursing research, and 3) other topics that describe Nurse Corps activities.

All Nurse Corps officers who have published an article, book, chapter in a book, editorial or newspaper story in 1994 are encouraged to submit their work for consideration. If the entry has not yet been published, a letter of acceptance from the publisher must accompany the entry. Please submit the entry with a cover memorandum that includes your full name, rank, duty station, address, and day-time phone number, fax and e-mail address to CAPT Barbara J. Beeby, NC, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (MED 00NCB3), 2300 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20372-5300, by 1 December 1994.

If there are any questions or you'd like further information on these awards or the selection process, contact Beeby at DSN 294-1092, (202) 653-1092 or e-mail nmc0bjb@bumed60.med.navy.mil.

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HEADLINE: NRA Outstanding Junior Officer of the Year

NRA Alexandria, VA (NSMN) -- The Naval Reserve Association will present three awards for outstanding junior officer: one for a drilling Reservist, one on active duty as TAR/265 or Reserve recruiting recall officer, and one for a selected Reserve Nurse Corps officer (the Bea Ratner Award). The winners will be selected by the NRA Awards Committee in March 1995 and will be honored at the 1995 NRA National Conference, 13-17 September 1995, in Newport, RI. Hotel rooms and conference registration fees are provided for the winners by the NRA.

Nominations can be made by any Navy or Naval Reserve command, NRA chapter, or by any officer of any designator of any rank senior to the officer being nominated. NRA will be judging on the "whole person" concept. To be eligible for selection, the nominee must (a) hold the rank of CW02, CW03, or O-1 through O-4 and not have been selected for promotion to CW04 or O-5, (b) must be drilling Reservist or on active duty as a TAR/265 or Reserve recruiting recall officer, (c) Nurse Corps for the Bea Ratner Award, (d) must exhibit outstanding qualities of leadership, (e) have an excellent record of attendance at regularly scheduled drills, (f) not have been a previous recipient of the award, and (g) be endorsed by his or her immediate superior, who may submit a letter of recommendation. The nomination package should include the following information:

- A. Nominees' rank, name, home mailing address, home and office phone numbers
- B. Full-length, 5x7, black and white photo in uniform
- C. Date of rank
- D. Pay entry base date
- E. Date received into the current unit
- F. Current unit affiliation with address
- G. Significant professional achievements which warrant selection (military and/or civilian)
- H. Military background
- I. Awards

- J. Educational background
- K. Licenses and certification
- L. Civilian experience
- M. Community involvement, including membership in military and professional organizations
- N. Endorsement by a superior.

Unit commanders, NRA chapter presidents or other officers should submit nominations directly to NRA Headquarters, 1619 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Nominations must be received by 6 January 1995. NRA point of contact is RADM Al Rieder, USNR (Ret.), at (703) 548-5800 or FAX (703) 683-3647.

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4. October observations and events occurring 21-31 October: OCTOBER

- Child Health Month (708/981-7871)
- Family Health Month (1 800 274-2237)
- National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Lupus Awareness Month (1 800 558-0121 or 301/670-9292)
- National Dental Hygiene Month
- National Family Sexuality Education Month (212/541-7800)
- National Liver Awareness Month (1 800 223-0179 or 201/256-2550)
- National Physical Therapy Month (703/706-3218)
- Consumer Information Month
- Talk About Prescriptions Month
- Auto Battery Safety Month (1 800 331-2020)
- 22 October 1918: "Flu" killed 400,000 Americans
- 23-29 October: National Adult Immunization Awareness Week (301/656-0003)
- 23-29 October: National Healthcare Quality Week (708/966-9392)
- 23-29 October: National Pharmacy Week (202/429-7558)
- 24 October: United Nations Day (charter ratified, 1945)
- 24 October 1929: Black Thursday -- panicked investors dump more than 13 million shares of stock
- 24-30 October: National Pastoral Care Week (314/965-9917, ext. 1395)
- 24 October: Reserve O-8 DC Board Convenes
- 25 October: Night Detailing until 2200 (eastern time)
- 27 October 1904: New York City subway, world's first underground, underwater rail system, opens
- 30 October: Daylight-saving time ends -- turn clocks back one hour
- 31 October: Halloween
- 31 October: National UNICEF Day: Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF (1 800 FOR-KIDS or 212/686-5522)
- 31 October - 6 November: National Diabetes Education Week (1 800 338-DMED)
- 31 October: Reserve O-3, Active Duty O-4 FitReps Due

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5. ADDRESSEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT INFORMATION AND NEWS

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